

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1, 3-5, 8, and 12-15 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Boon (EP 0971543). This rejection is traversed and is inapplicable to claims 1-4, and 6-15 as amended for the following reasons.

An interview was conducted with the Examiner on March 3 and 4, 2008. During the interview, the Boon reference was discussed in detail with specific reference to Fig. 5. After consultation with a primary Examiner, the Examiner suggested that the claims be amended to better define what is meant by “non-sequential” and to better define the role of the “flag” recited in the claims. Thus, the claims have been amended herein as generally suggested by the Examiner. It is submitted that the claims as amended are distinguishable over the applied references.

Accordingly, claim 1 has been amended to recite that the moving picture coding method is a method for coding an inputted coded moving picture signal on a picture-by-picture basis and generating a coded stream, wherein the inputted coded moving picture signal includes coded picture data for each picture, and display order information for each picture, and the display order information for each picture has a value indicating the display order of the respective picture. Claim 1 has also been amended to further include a detecting step of detecting whether the values of the display order information for the pictures to be included in the generated coded stream are sequential or non-sequential. The flag information generation step of claim 1 has been amended to recite generating a flag indicating that the values of the display order information are non-sequential when said detecting step detects that the values of the display order information for the pictures to be included in the generated coded stream are non-sequential. Finally, claim 1 has been amended to further include a coded stream generating step of generating a coded stream comprising: the coded picture data for each picture to be included in the generated coded stream; and the flag inserted into the coded stream so as to indicate a position among the coded picture data where the display order of the pictures is non-sequential.

Boon does not disclose such a method. Boon does not disclose a detecting step of detecting

whether values of display order information in the inputted signal for the pictures to be included in the outputted generated coded stream are sequential or non-sequential. A main reason for such a non-sequentiality in the present invention is due to a portion of the moving picture being removed due to editing. Thus, the present invention handles a non-sequentiality present in the indicated display order of the “pictures to be included in the generated stream” in contrast to the sequential display order of the original coded signal. No such situation is at issue in the Boon system. Since all the pictures in the inputted signal are included in the generated signal in Boon, there is no need to determine whether the values of the display order information for the pictures to be included in the generated coded stream are sequential or non-sequential.

It therefore follows that Boon does not disclose generating a flag indicating that the values of the display order information are non-sequential when a detecting step detects that the values of the display order information for the pictures to be included in the generated coded stream are non-sequential. Rather, Boon merely includes a flag (RA flag), which indicates whether or not compressed image data is suitable for random reproduction.

In view of the above, it is submitted that claims 1, and 3-5 are not anticipated by Boon. It is also submitted that claims 12 and 14 are not anticipated by Boon for the same reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1.

Claim 8 as amended recites a moving picture decoding method for decoding a coded stream including coded picture data for each picture included in the coded stream; display order information for each picture included in the coded stream and a flag inserted into the coded stream so as to indicate a position among the coded picture data where the display order of the pictures is non-sequential. Claim 8 also recites an information extraction step of extracting the flag indicating a position among the coded picture data where values of the display order information of the pictures is non-sequential; and a management step of managing a storage memory area for storing a decoded picture based on the flag. As discussed above, Boon does not disclose a flag inserted into the coded stream so as to indicate a position among the coded picture data where the display order of the pictures is non-sequential, but merely discloses a flag which indicates whether or not compressed image data is suitable for random reproduction.

Accordingly, claim 8 is not anticipated by Boon. It is also submitted that claims 13 and 15 are not anticipated by Boon for the same reasons discussed above with respect to claim 8.

Claims 2, 6, 7, 9, and 11 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Boon in view of Teo (US 5,621,464), and claim 10 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Boon in view of Teo and Asai (US 6,710,785). These rejections are traversed.

As discussed above, Boon does not disclose or suggest “flag information indicating that display order information or coding order information of the picture is non-sequential” as recited in independent claims 1, 8, and 12-15. This feature is also recited in independent claim 6. Teo does not remedy the lack of disclosure or suggestion by Boon of this feature recited in claims 1, 6, and 8. Therefore, no obvious combination of Boon and Teo would result in, or otherwise render obvious, the invention recited in independent claim 6, or claims 2 and 7 which depend from claims 1 and 6, respectively, or claims 10 and 11 which ultimately depend from claim 8. Therefore, no obvious combination of Boon and Teo would result in, or otherwise render obvious, the invention recited in claims 2, 6, 7, 9, or 11. Asai also does not remedy the lack of disclosure or suggestion by Boon of the features recited in claim 8. Therefore, no obvious combination of Boon, Teo, and Asai would result in, or otherwise render obvious, the invention recited in claim 10 ultimately depends from claim 8.

Because of the distinctions discussed above, it is submitted that claims 1-15 are patentable over the prior art of record and that the present application is in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone to resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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March 27, 2008